

REMARKS

This is a preliminary amendment filed prior to the issuance of the first Office Action in the above-identified U.S. National Stage application.

I. CLAIM CHANGES

The originally filed claims, which were English translations of claims of a foreign patent document, were in the form of "use" claims. However "use" claims are not permitted in U.S. Patent Practice (35 U.S.C. 101). Furthermore the original claims contained various informal wording that is not permitted by US Patent Statutes and US Patent Office Rules.

Accordingly new claims 19 to 38 have been added and the original claims 1 to 19 have been canceled.

The new claims 19 to 38 include agent claims 19 to 31 and method claims 32 to 38.

New agent claims 19 to 26 include subject matter from originally filed claims 1 to 5. New dependent agent claims 27, 28 and 29 include subject matter from canceled claims 15, 16 and 17.

New dependent agent claims 30 and 31 include new subject matter from page 7 of the applicants' originally filed specification. No new matter has been added. The pH values are taken from the last three lines on page 7. The auxiliary ingredients from the second full paragraph on page 7. The term "Vaseline" is a

trade name and has not been used in the claim 31. It has been replaced by the synonymous term, petrolatum.

Independent method claim 32 includes the subject matter of the agent claim 19 plus the method steps recited in the canceled claim 18.

Dependent method claims 33 to 38 contain subject matter from canceled "use" claims 6 to 14. The subject matter of canceled claims 6 to 14 is more properly included in dependent method claims because the limitations in these canceled dependent claims would not further limit an agent or composition claim. Limitations regarding the work piece that is treated with the composition or agent or the method steps do not further limit the composition or agent.

II. SPECIFICATION CHANGES

Standard section headings according to 37 C.F.R. 1.77 have been added to the specification.

A "Brief Description of the Drawing" section, which is required by US Patent Office Rules, has been added to page 9 of the specification.

The first paragraph of the specification has been amended to better describe the subject matter of the present invention.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawing be further amended or corrected in formal respects to put this case in condition for final allowance, then it is requested that such

amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing the case to allowance, he or she is invited to telephone the undersigned at 1-631-549 4700.

In view of the foregoing, favorable allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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